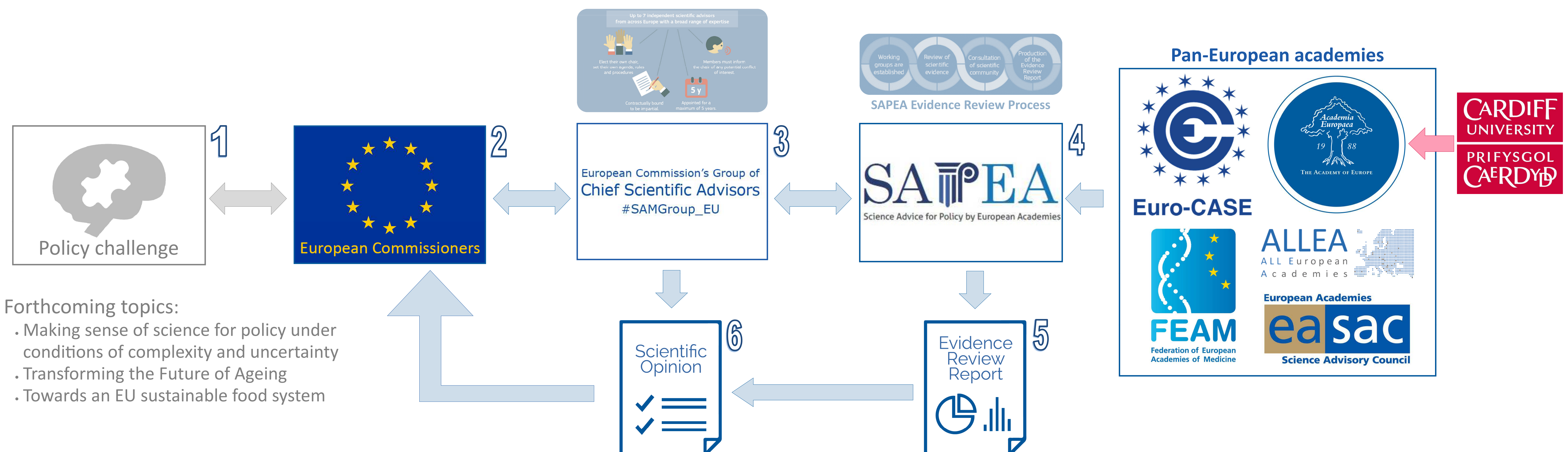# European Commission Scientific Advice Mechanism

"The **concept of 'science advice'** covers all the processes and structures aimed at providing scientific knowledge and information to the attention of policy– and decision– makers."

European Parliamentary Research Service (2015). Scientific Advice for policymakers in the European Union. PE 559.512

SAPEA Evidence Review Process

**Pan-European academies**

1. Policy challenge
2. European Commissioners
3. European Commission's Group of Chief Scientific Advisors #SAMGroup_EU
4. SAPEA — Science Advice for Policy by European Academies
5. Evidence Review Report
6. Scientific Opinion

Euro-CASE
FEAM — Federation of European Academies of Medicine
Academia Europaea — The Academy of Europe — 1988
ALLEA — ALL European Academies
EASAC — European Academies Science Advisory Council

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY — PRIFYSGOL CAERDYDD

Forthcoming topics:
- Making sense of science for policy under conditions of complexity and uncertainty
- Transforming the Future of Ageing
- Towards an EU sustainable food system

## GCSA Scientific Opinions published to date:

Closing the gap · Cybersecurity · Food from the Oceans · Novel carbon capture and utilisation technologies · Plant Protection Products · Microplastic Pollution

## SAPEA evidence review reports published to date:

FOOD FROM THE OCEANS · Novel carbon capture and utilisation technologies · IMPROVING AUTHORISATION PROCESSES FOR PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS IN EUROPE · A SCIENTIFIC PERSPECTIVE ON MICRO-PLASTICS IN NATURE AND SOCIETY

# Major challenges in the scientific advice landscape

- **Complexity and variety of sources**
- **Uncertainty**
- **Bias**
- **Independence and transparency**
- **Translation of scientific knowledge into the policy context**

- **Apparent decline of trust in 'experts'**
- **Citizen participation**

## Fresh narratives to attract diverse audiences

Our growing population · Fishing down the food chain · Changing tides · Eat SMART

## Outreach and public engagement activities



# MAKING SENSE OF SCIENCE FOR POLICY UNDER CONDITIONS OF COMPLEXITY AND UNCERTAINTY

Scoping paper published in February 2018.

SAPEA evidence review report and GCSA scientific opinion due for publication in June 2019.

The Group of Chief Scientific Advisors was asked to provide guidance on the effective and transparent provision and use of science advice for informed policymaking. **The guidance delivered by the GCSA will inform the way in which science advice to policymaking will be provided in the next European Commission** (post 2019-2024), and shall respond to the following question:

**How to provide good science advice to EC policymakers, based on available evidence, under conditions of scientific complexity and uncertainty?**
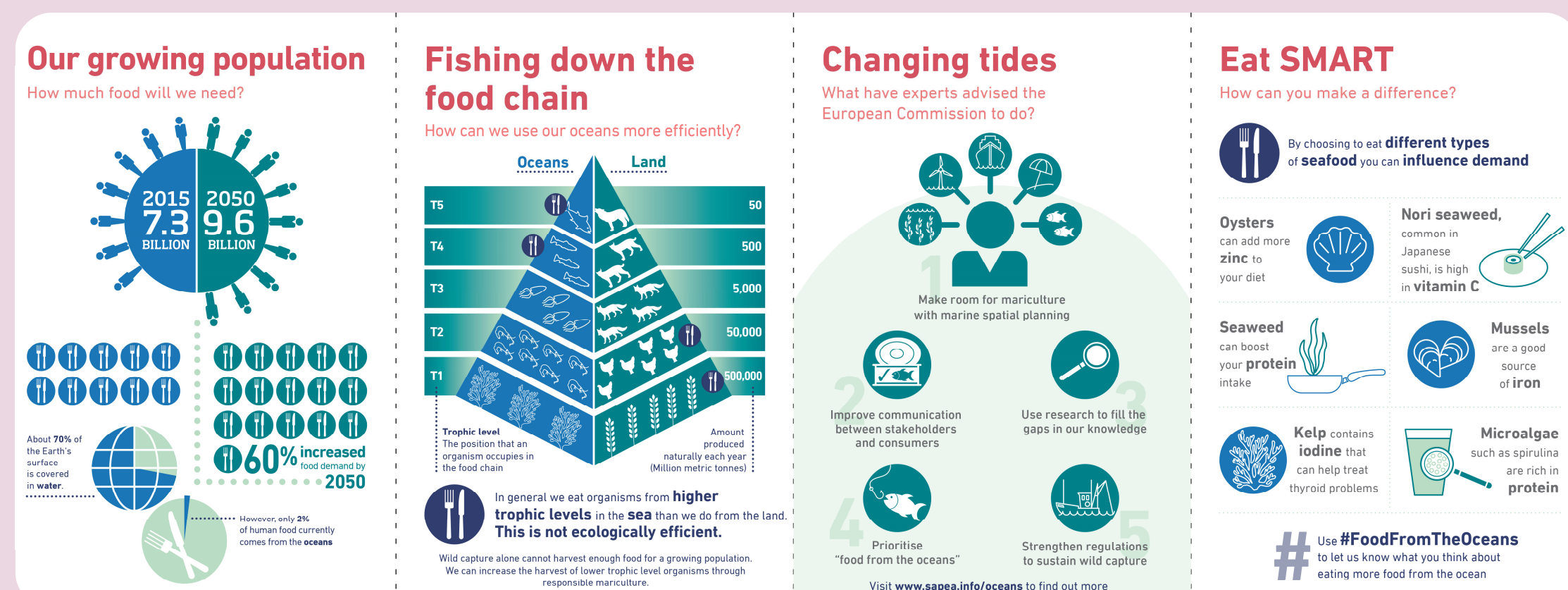
Challenges:
- What **principles, approaches and methods** can be introduced to face the challenges of science advice?
- What are the **best practices** in assessing and communicating uncertainty as part of the science advisory process?

Appropriate and high-quality evidence for policy:
- What are the **attributes of good science** carried out for public policy?
- What are the **different kinds of scientific evidence** that are relevant for advice to policy and under what conditions?
- What **good practices** exist **for the use of expert knowledge and collective expert bodies** in the process of science advice?
- What are **effective ways of mitigating biases** in producing, selecting and interpreting evidence for policy?
- What are **good practices in dealing with and communicating scientific dissent** in the process of science advice?

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